

The Foundation for Our Leadership

(Our Ministry Will Be a Precious Treasure or a Performance Trap)

“Come to Me, all who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”(Matthew 11:28-30)

BIBLICAL
BASIS

In this lesson we will evaluate the foundation upon which our leadership is built. Often, in our pursuit of results, we slip into ministry motivated by guilt rather than by grace. May this lesson serve as a reminder of the Source of our power.

Luke 10:38-42

There are two common drives that emerge when people meet Jesus:

1. We are driven to _____.
2. We are driven to _____.

Martha and Mary are vivid illustrations of these two drives or compulsions. Martha wants to impress Jesus, and she attempts to perform for Him. Mary determines she must first be served by Jesus before she attempts to serve Him.

MARTHA

- a. Sought approval on her terms
- b. Offers no power
- c. Performs from a driven spirit

MARY

- a. Sought a relationship with Christ
- b. Offers unlimited power
- c. Serves from a response to grace

Our Problem

Mary and Martha illustrate the truth of this lesson. When we first come to Christ we pursue communion with Him. That’s all we have to offer – a pursuit of intimacy with God. Like a marriage, all we have to offer in the beginning is the pursuit of love. However, as we mature, our pursuit of competence displaces our pursuit of communion. We become like Martha. We strive to become competent at our Christian life and ministry. Eventually, God will remove the fulfillment of our competence in order to move us back to communion. Here is a summary of our problem:

COMPETENCE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

COMMUNION

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Performance Versus Service

Let's define what we mean by the terms "performance" and "service" and define where our problem lies:

Definitions:

Performance = Ministry done out of human _____, contrived from human strength in order to gain the approval of someone.

Service = Ministry done out of an experience of _____. It is a loving response to a new identity in order to say 'thank You' to God.

Ask Yourself These Questions:

- What is the foundation for my ministry?
- Why do I do what I do?
- What do I seek from doing ministry?

Differences Between Leadership – Based on Performance or Service:

Performance

(Law)

Service

(Grace)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strives in human strength 2. Bondage to law and legalism 3. Imbalance: More doing than being 4. Motive is to please people 5. Comparison with others 6. Manipulates and controls others 7. Lack of joy and peace 8. Extreme reactions 9. Frustration with self 10. Relationship with God is unstable 11. Works to gain God's approval 12. Produces stronghold of religion | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledges human weakness; waits on God's strength and timing 2. Freedom to give out of devotion, not duty 3. Balanced rhythm of reflection and obedience 4. Ability to say no to people at God's direction 5. Acceptance of others 6. Freedom to make choices and be different 7. Experiences the fruit of the Spirit 8. Consistency, stability; sensitive to God's leading 9. Acceptance of God's growth process in self 10. Slow but steady growth with God 11. Natural life-response to God's unconditional approval 12. Produces deep relationship with God |
|---|--|

KEY POINTS

The power to **BE** is a priority over the power to **DO**,
because if you are **SOMEBODY**, you will naturally do **SOMETHING!**

Conclusions Regarding Our Problem

1. Our ministry must move from _____ to _____.
2. We must pursue _____ before _____.
3. We cannot be _____ until we are _____.

**EXAMINE
THE WORD**

Our Potential

Experiencing God's grace enables us to live and serve on a higher level. When we invited Christ to be our Lord, we experienced the grace to save us and take us to heaven. (That's certainly living on a higher level!) However, many of us leave that posture of grace and attempt to grow through our performance.

If our leadership and ministry are going to be supernatural (as Jesus calls it to be) we must realize that everything in God's kingdom comes by GRACE through faith. We must see and believe this before our lives will reflect it. Note the following three biblical word pictures...

1. The Picture of a Father and Son

We are first a _____ of God before we are a _____ for God.

2. The Picture of Marriage

We are the _____ of Christ before we are _____ to Christ.

3. The Picture of an Ambassador

We operate in _____ power and authority, not our _____.

The Biblical Basis for a Grace Empowered Ministry

- II Corinthians 9:8
- Ephesians 2:10
- II Corinthians 12:9
- I Corinthians 15:10

It isn't that the law is bad; it just doesn't give us any power to live a life of service and ministry. It can only remind us when we've failed. Grace changes our desires and empowers us to live out those desires.

Our Prescription

What steps must we take to return to a "grace filled lifestyle?" Let's begin with the following applications for our ministry:

- Our "*Mary*" experience should precede our "*Martha*" experience.
- Our *competence* should come from our *communion* with God.

- We must find a balanced rhythm of being and doing.
- We must believe and embrace the following “grace” foundations:

Grace Foundations

CHECK YOUR
HEART

1. God’s grace is _____ for free because it’s based on Jesus’ performance, not mine.
2. God does not love me and _____ me for what I can do for Him.
3. I must _____ to my “old husband” (the law) and stop relating to God on that basis.
4. God’s grace accepts me as I am, then _____ me to live above my own ability.
5. The only requirement for receiving grace is _____.
6. Ministry is greater under grace, because _____, not _____ is the motivation.

Stepping into Grace

1. _____ – Conduct honest personal examination and diagnosis.
2. _____ – Surrender my performance issues to God.
3. _____ – Note the people and issues for which I am performing.
4. _____ – Forgive; let go of wrong views and surrender myself.
5. _____ – Ask the Holy Spirit to grant God’s grace.
6. _____ – Refuse to allow wrong motives to rule me.
7. _____ – Return to serving God from a loving, responsive heart.

ASSESSMENT: Evaluate your pursuit of competence versus communion.

ACTION PLAN

APPLICATION: What steps do you need to take to live out a “grace filled” lifestyle?